SCENE V. The Same. The Senate-House,

*The Senate sitting. Enter ALCIBIADES, attended**

1 *SEN.* My lord, you have my voice to It; the fault's
Bloody; 'tis necessary he should die : Nothing emboldens sin so much as mercy.

2 *SEN.* Most true ; the law shall bruise him [8].

ALCIB. Honour, health, and compassion to the senate!

I *SEN.* Now, captain ?

ALCIB. I am an humble suitor to your virtues ; For pity is the virtue of the law, And none but tyrants use it cruelly. It pleases time, and fortune, to lie heavy Upon a friend of mine, who, in hot blood, Hath stepp'd into the law, which is past depth To those that, without heed, do plunge into it. He is a man, setting his fate aside [9], Of comely virtues[J];

[8] —shall bruise HIM.] The old copy reads—shall bruise *'em** The same mistake has happened often in these plays. In a subsequent line in this scene we have in the old copy—with *him,* instead of—with *"em.* For the correction, which is fully justified by the context, I am answerable. MALONE.

Sir Thomas Hanmer also reads—braise *him.* STEEVENS.

9—setting his FATE aside,] L e. putting this action of his[y] which was pre-determined by fate, out of the question. STEEVENS.

[3] He is a man, &c.] I have printed these lines after the original copy, except that, for *an honour,* it is there, *and honour.* All the latter editions deviate unwarrantably from the original* and give the lines thus :

" He is a man, setting *hisjfauZt* aside,
" *Of virtuous honour,* which buys out his fault
j
" Nor did he soil," &c, JOHNSON.